

Virginia Women

RESOURCES IN THE PRINT COLLECTION OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



Virginia women have had a long history of unrecognized achievement; however, in the past twenty-five years scholars have initiated research which demonstrates and documents their accomplishments. Researchers have begun to study the status women had in a male-dominated society and to recognize the struggles they faced and the causes they embraced. Our generation owes much to the legacy these women left behind.

This pamphlet is a guide to the resources available at the Library of Virginia. Someone interested in this topic can use this handout as a pathfinder that highlights general works and some specific studies, and suggests various indexes and databases for further research into the lives of Virginia women and their contributions to society.

The following subject headings are but a few examples that can be used to retrieve titles from the online catalog:

- African American women
- Feminism—United States
- Women
- Women and literature—Southern States
- Women and religion—Virginia
- Women and war—Virginia
- Women—Appalachian Region
- Women authors, American—Virginia
- Women civil rights workers—Virginia—Biography
- Women—Conduct of life
- Women—Confederate States of America
- Women detectives—Virginia—Fiction
- Women—Education—Virginia
- Women—Employment—Virginia—Richmond
- Women farmers—United States—History
- Women in politics—Virginia
- Women—Legal status, laws, etc.—Virginia
- Women-owned business enterprises—Virginia
- Women slaves—Virginia
- Women—Southern States
- Women—Suffrage
- Women—Suffrage—Virginia
- Women—Virginia
- Women—Virginia— [city or county]
- Women—Virginia—History
- Women—Virginia—Social conditions

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REFERENCE SOURCES

- Benowitz, June Melby. *Encyclopedia of American Women and Religion*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 1998. BL2525 B45 1998
- Coppens, Linda Miles. *What American Women Did, 1789–1920: A Year-by-Year Reference*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2001. HQ1154 C665 2001
- Cox, Elizabeth. *Women in Modern American Politics: A Bibliography, 1900–1995*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1997. HQ1236.5 U6 C69 1997
- Cullen-DuPont, Kathryn. *The Encyclopedia of Women's History in America*. 2nd ed. New York, N.Y.: Facts on File, 1996. HQ1410 C85 2000
- Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. Richmond, Va.: Library of Virginia, 1998–. F225 D54 1998 (Published to date: Vol. 1. Aaroe–Blanchfield; Vol. 2. Bland–Cannon)
- Dubrow, Gail Lee, and Jennifer B. Goodman. *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003. HQ1410 R47 2003
- Encyclopedia of Women in American History*. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2002. HQ1410 E53 2002
- Garraty, John A., and Mark C. Carnes, eds. *American National Biography*. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 1999. E176 A472 1999
- Harper, Judith E. *Women during the Civil War: An Encyclopedia*. New York, N.Y.: Routledge, 2004. E628 H37 2004
- Olsen, Kirstin. *Chronology of Women's History*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1994. HQ1121 O47 1994
- The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History*. Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. HQ1410 R43 1998
- Schenken, Suzanne O'Dea. *From Suffrage to the Senate: An Encyclopedia of American Women in Politics*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 1999. HQ1236.5 U6 S32 1999
- Schultz, Jeffrey D., and Laura van Assendelft. *Encyclopedia of Women in American Politics*. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press, 1999. HQ1236.5 U6 E53 1999
- Weatherford, Doris. *Milestones: A Chronology of American Women's History*. New York, N.Y.: Facts on File, 1997. HQ1410 W434 1997

GUIDES TO ARCHIVAL SOURCES

- McDaid, Jennifer. *Using Women's History Resources in the Archives of the Library of Virginia*. Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2002. HQ1121 M33
- . *Virginia Women and the First World War: Records and Resources at the Library of Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Library of Virginia, 2002. D639 W7 M43
- . *Virginia Women and the Second World War: Records and Resources at the Library of Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Library of Virginia, 2002. D810 W7 M43

Terry, Gail S. *Documenting Women's Lives: User's Guide to Manuscripts at the Virginia Historical Society*. Richmond, Va.: The Society, 1996. HQ1438 V5 V819 1996

Southern Women and their Families in the 19th Century, Papers and Diaries. Series A, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Consulting editor, Anne Firor Scott; associate editor, Martin P. Schipper. Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1991. HQ1458 S68 1991

This is the guide to the microfilm collection Film 1141.

Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th century, Papers and Diaries. Miscellaneous Collections, 1773–1938. Series C, Holdings of the Earl Gregg Swem Library, the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Consulting editor, Anne Firor Scott; associate editor, Martin P. Schipper. HQ1438 V8 G8

This is the guide to the microfilm collection Film 1269.

WEB RESOURCES

Websites viewed as of September 1, 2004

American Women: A Gateway to the Library of Congress Resources for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States. (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/>

African-American Women: On-line Archival Collections. (Duke University, Special Collections Library)

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>

Center for American Women and Politics. (Rutgers University)

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/>

Documenting the American South. (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries)

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/impls/>

Hearts at Home: Southern Women in the Civil War. (University of Virginia)

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/speccol/exhibits/heart/>

Norfolk Women's History. (Old Dominion University)

<http://www.lib.odu.edu/special/oralhistory/womenhistory/>

Women's History. (University of North Carolina Press)

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/features-womens-list.html>

A list of books published on women's issues from the University Press of North Carolina, one of few university presses that specialize in publishing women's history.

Women in American History. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

<http://search.eb.com/women/>

"Working Out Her Destiny: Women's History in Virginia, 1600–2004." (Library of Virginia)

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whoware/exhibits/destiny/index.htm>

This is a major exhibition at the Library of Virginia that takes a fresh look at the history of Virginia's women and the history of Virginia in the light of twenty years of innovative scholarship and research. Under "related resources" several bibliographies provide an almost comprehensive guide to articles written within the last twenty years.

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WPA *Life Stories*. (Library of Virginia)

http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas06&local_base=CLAS06

A fully-searchable index to approximately 1,350 life histories, social-ethnic studies, and youth studies plus more than 50 interviews with former slaves which were created by the staff of the Virginia Writers' Project. Document images are available online

SELECTED TITLES

Boyle, Sarah-Patton. *The Desegregated Heart: A Virginian's Stand in Time of Transition*. Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 2001. E185.93 V8 B778 2001

The author describes her transformation from a housewife to a civil rights activist, and the events that precipitated this change.

Brown, Kathleen M. *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Published for Institute of Early American History and Culture by University of North Carolina Press, 1996. F229 B8783 1996

This book contributes greatly to understanding the societal dynamics of colonial Virginia. The author provides a gender analysis of the colony, based on the categories of race, class, and gender.

Buckley, Thomas E. "Placed in the Power of Violence': The Divorce Petition of Evelina Gregory Roane, 1824". *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 100 (1992): 29–78. F221 V9

An interesting account of how a woman in the 19th century was able to persuade the General Assembly to grant her a divorce. She went on to marry several more times and acquire a remarkable fortune.

Burwell, Letitia M. *A Girl's Life in Virginia before the War*. Harrisonburg, Va.: Sprinkle Publications, 2001. F230 B95 2001

An account of life before and during the Civil War in Bedford, Virginia.

Censer, Jane Turner. *The Reconstruction of White Southern Womanhood, 1865–1895*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 2003. HQ1438 S63 C45 2003

Through the writings of elite southern women the author recreates a brief period after the Civil War during which women forged a new prototype of an ideal woman, quite different from that of the "southern belle." Those dreams were to be squashed by intense racism and a quest to recreate a "mythic South."

Coryell Janet L., ed., et al. *Beyond Image and Convention*. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1998. HQ1438 S63 B48 1998

A collection of essays which document some exceptional southern women of different ethnic and religious backgrounds, who despite the prevailing image of submission and compliance of their times went "beyond convention," demonstrating an independent spirit and character, often in conflict with the stereotype of a southern womanhood.

Gillespie, Michele, and Catherine Clinton, eds. *Taking off the White Gloves*. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1998. HQ1438 S63 T34 1998

Essays on diverse topics providing social and popular history, and cultural interpretation spanning four centuries on Virginia women.

Green, Elna C. *Southern Strategies: Southern Women and the Woman Suffrage Question*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. JK1896 G695 1997

The author analyzes the complex issues of suffragism and anti-suffragism in the South overall, but has chosen Virginia as a case study to research the state suffrage campaigns, painting a vivid picture of Virginia women's efforts.

Kierner, Cynthia A. "Woman's Piety within Patriarchy: The Religious Life of Martha Hancock Wheat of Bedford County." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 100 (1992): 79–98. F221 V9

An example of a strong woman who was able to assert herself "by invoking the evangelical's sense of mission and Christian duty."

———. “Genteel Balls and Republican Parades: Gender and Early Southern Civic Rituals, 1677–1826.” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 104 (1996):185–210. F221 V9

The author examines the roles of men and women in southern civic pageantry and argues that southern elite women were able through genteel civil balls and social gatherings to exerted political influence, which otherwise was reserved for the male citizens of a patriarchal society.

———. *Beyond the Household: Women's Place in the Early South, 1700–1835*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998. HQ1391 U5 K55 1998

Cynthia Kierner explores the worlds of white southern women between 1700 and 1835 and documents that these women, although indirectly, participated in a variety of ways in public affairs. She describes how the gender ideals were transformed during that period, based on her research in diaries, etiquette manuals, religious periodicals and travelers' accounts.

Lebsock, Suzanne. *Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784–1860*. New York, N.Y.: Norton, 1984. HQ1423 L39 1984

The author has chosen Petersburg as a case study.

———. *Virginia Women, 1600–1945: A Share of Honour*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Women's Cultural History Project, 1987. HQ1438 V8 S52 1984

This work is an accompanying essay to a traveling exhibit by the same title that opened at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 1984, and was commissioned by the Virginia Women's Cultural History Project. The author has done a remarkable job describing the lives and experiences of Virginia women during that span of time.

Marlowe, Gertrude Woodruff. *A Right Worthy Grand Mission: Maggie Lena Walker and the Quest for Black Economic Empowerment*. Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 2003. E185.97 W13 M3 2003

This book is the most thoroughly researched and documented biography of Walker's remarkable life and times. Walker, a business leader in Richmond's African-American community, overcame the race and gender inequities of her time and became the very first black woman to charter a banking institution in the United States. Her boundless energy and her optimism guided her through a difficult personal life. She set a stellar example of entrepreneurship and gained the respect of blacks and whites alike. She is one of the most known personalities in the history of Richmond.

McClenahan, Mary Tyler Freeman Cheek. *Southern Civility: Recollections of My Early Life*. Richmond, Va.: Donnan, 2003. F231.3 M125 A3 2003

The autobiography of a remarkable Richmonder, daughter of Douglas Southall Freeman and wife of Leslie Cheek, director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. It is a fascinating memoir recounting her passage from childhood to young adulthood in a southern city during the 1920s and 30s.

Murray, Gail S., ed. *Throwing Off the Cloak of Privilege: White Southern Women Activists in the Civil Rights Era*. Gainesville, Fla.: University Press of Florida, 2004. E185.98 A1 T49 2004

An anthology of the writings of southern women activists in the Civil Rights era.

Scott, Anne Firor. “The Unwritten History of Virginia.” *VHPP Humanities: Newsletter of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy* 10 (Fall 1983): 1–6. LB2336 V8 v.10

The author uses some famous Virginia women to demonstrate that even though “formal history” neglected to recount the role women played, slowly their history emerges through the work of modern historians.

———. *The Southern Lady: From Pedestal to Politics, 1830–1930*. Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1970. HQ1418 S38

Considered to be a classic, this book explains the complex environment and conditions in the South before and after the Civil War. The author analyzes the romanticized model men had formed for the Southern women and to which they tried to conform. The persistence and cultivation of this myth was partly the reason why woman suffrage was not as widely embraced by southern women as by those in other sections. The author was one of the first scholars who researched this topic and has written extensively on it.

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———. *Making the Invisible Woman Visible*. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1984. HQ1412 S36 1984

Eloquent essays that demonstrate how to locate and extrapolate information from historic documents and papers about the role and actions of the women of the South. The author succeeds in deconstructing this mode of "expected" behavior by Southern women, on whom these expectations were superimposed by their contemporary men.

Scott, Anne Firor, and Suzanne Lebsock. *Virginia Women: The First Two Hundred Years*. Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1988. HQ1438 V5 S36 1988

A succinct but exceptionally clear and informative history of women in Virginia.

Snyder, Terri L. *Brabbling Women: Disorderly Speech and the Law in Early Virginia*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2003. HQ1438 V5 S68 2003

The author describes some examples of daring colonial Virginia women, who found ways to empower themselves, fight the legal system, protest the confines of their marriage, take sides in the revolutionary war, and generally stand up against the norm of those days.

Strum, Phillipa. *Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights*. Lawrence, Ks.: University Press of Kansas, 2002. KF228 U5 S77 2002

This is the story of a Virginia landmark case that illustrates the courage of a new generation of women for whom the military has become a career option. The author explores the history of this school from a legal and cultural point of view and shows how new ideas about gender equality have developed. The chapter that describes the agonizing decisions the administration had to make in order to incorporate women into the student body is highly interesting and offers wonderful insights.

Sturtz, Linda L. *Within Her Power: Propertied Women in Colonial Virginia*. New York, N.Y.: Routledge, 2002. HQ1438 V8 S78 2002

A comprehensive study of property-owning women in Tidewater, Virginia, during the 17th century. It examines the restrictions on women's behavior and speech, the opportunities and difficulties women encountered with the legal system, and the economic and discretionary authority they enjoyed, despite the conformity of colonial times.

Treadway, Sandra Gioia. "New Directions in Virginia Women's History." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 100 (1992): 5–28. F221 V9

The author provides a valuable analysis of the historiography of Virginia women. Starting in the 1930s, some timid attempts were made, and by the 1970s women historians realized the need to research this angle of Virginia history. The article details all significant research on this topic up to the time of publication in 1992.

———. *Women of Mark: A History of the Woman's Club of Richmond, Virginia, 1894–1994*. Richmond, Va.: The Library of Virginia, 1995. HQ1906 R5 T71 1995

This work provides a detailed description not only of this cultural organization, but also an account of the activities of its members, most of them trailblazers in their times.

Varon, Elizabeth R. *We Mean to Be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. HQ1236.5 U6 V37 1998

The author traces the activities of notable women of Virginia and convincingly argues that there was a covert political activism quite different from the stereotype of the southern belle. She successfully argues that even though they lacked franchise, nonetheless they left their mark by their involvement in their societies and in beneficial organizations by petitioning, publishing, and fund-raising.

Walker, Melissa, Jeanette R. Dunn, and Joe P. Dunn, eds. *Southern Women at the Millennium: A Historical Perspective*. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2003. HQ1438 V8 S78 2002

A collection of eight essays placing the lives of Southern women in a historical perspective. The author stresses how crucial was the last quarter of the twentieth century, which became a critical period for dramatic changes in the status of women

Wheeler, Marjorie Spruill. "Mary Johnston, Suffragist." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 100 (1992): 99–118.
F221 V9

A careful analysis of the life of an important Virginian writer and suffragist that sheds light to the rational southern suffrage women embraced.

———. *New Women of the New South: The Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the Southern States*. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 1993. JK1896 W8 1993

The author focuses on eleven of the movement's most prominent leaders. She explores the various opinions of this group and puts them in context within the racial, regional, and sexual politics of the early 20th century.

PERIODICAL DATABASES AND INDEXES

The following databases are good sources for articles about Virginia women as well as many other topics. They are available at the library's reading room computers:

America: History and Life - This database provides bibliographic reference to historical journal articles about the history of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present. Published since 1964, the database indexes 2000 plus periodicals dating back to 1954. Citations with abstracts are given.

Freeman File - The in-house index from the library of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* for the years 1920–1985.

JSTOR. Journal Storage: The Scholarly Journal Archive - A comprehensive archive of important scholarly journal literature. (Excluded are the most current five years)

Proquest

The Historic Washington Post (1877–1988) offers full page and article images with searchable full text back to the first issue. *The American Periodical Series* (APS) offers over 1,100 periodicals that first began publishing between 1740 and 1900, including special interest and general magazines, literary and professional journals, children's and women's magazines, and many other historically-significant periodicals.

Newsbank - An online index to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *Daily News Leader* (Staunton), *Daily Press* (Newport News), *Roanoke Times*, *Virginian-Pilot* (Norfolk) and *The Washington Post*.

Biography and Genealogy Master Index - Index to most important biographical sources.

Expanded Academic ASAP - This database covers the research needs across all academic disciplines. You may access scholarly journals, news magazines, and newspapers, many with full text and images.

General Reference Center Gold - A general interest database that integrates a variety of sources. Researchers can locate articles from newspapers, reference books, and periodicals, many with full-text.

Info Trac OneFile - Index to periodical literature.

E-Library - This database provides current full text magazines, newspapers, pictures, maps, and television and radio transcripts. This is one of the few databases that covers these two media.